

Appl. No. : 10/678,853
Filed : October 03, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Angela J. Martin for the courteous telephone interview that was conducted on July 25, 2007. This response is consistent with the interview.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Support can be found on page 8, paragraph 0049, for example. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Uchida et al. (JP2003-217642).

As discussed in the interview, an English translation of paragraphs 0035-0036 of Uchida is provided in the Appendix. The paragraphs 0035-0036 of Uchida describe electrodes, alcohols and the testing results of Examples 1-2 and Comparative Examples 1-6. Disclosure of the second step recited in Claim 1, “a second step of contacting the air electrode in the fuel cell with an oxidizable material and **applying a current from an external electric source** between the fuel electrode as negative and the air electrode as positive **in the direction opposite to the first step**, after the first”, cannot be found anywhere in Uchida. No external electric source or no application of current in a reverse direction is taught by Uchida. Since each and every element of Claim 1 is not disclosed in Uchida, Claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Uchida.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1, and thus, at least for this reason, Claims 2-7 also cannot be anticipated by Uchida.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: August 17, 2007

By: _____


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